

*Ericameria nauseosa* / *Bouteloua gracilis* Shrub Herbaceous Vegetation

MAP CLASS	Rabbitbrush / Blue Grama Shrub Herbaceous Vegetation
COMMON NAME	Rabbitbrush / Blue Grama Shrub Herbaceous Vegetation
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS	Herbaceous Vegetation (V.)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS	Perennial graminoid vegetation (V.A.)
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP	Temperate or subpolar grassland with a sparse shrub layer (V.A.7.)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP	Natural/Semi-natural (V.A.7.N.)
FORMATION	Short temperate or subpolar grassland with a sparse microphyllous shrub layer (V.A.7.N.j.)
ALLIANCE	<i>Ericameria nauseosa</i> Shrub Herbaceous Alliance

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL Weak

USFS WETLAND SYSTEM Upland

RANGE

**Walnut Canyon National Monument**

Rabbitbrush / Blue Grama Shrub Herbaceous Vegetation is a common vegetation association in eastern section of the project boundary. This association was identified from our relevé data to occur in the northeastern section of the project boundary near the chained areas as well as in small patches in the southeastern section of the project boundary east of Cherry Canyon.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

**Walnut Canyon National Monument**

The elevation at which this association was surveyed ranged from 1935-2010m (average 1980m). Topography varied from flat areas to slight inclines of 0-13% slope (average 4%).

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

**Walnut Canyon National Monument**

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Shrub	<i>Ericameria nauseosa</i>
Herbaceous	<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>

ASSOCIATED SPECIES

**Walnut Canyon National Monument**

*Aristida purpurea*, *Artemisia dracunculoides*, *Chamaebatiaria millefolium*, *Gutierrezia sarothrae*, *Juniperus osteosperma*, *Linaria genistifolia*, *Pinus edulis*, *Tetradymia canescens* (all occur with >1% cover)

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

**Walnut Canyon National Monument**

Rabbitbrush / Blue Grama Shrub Herbaceous Vegetation total vegetation cover ranged from 52-62% (average 57%) with 1-9% absolute cover (average 3%) in the tree layer, 18-32% (average 25%) in the shrub layer, and 28-40% (average 32%) in the herbaceous layer. The total species diversity ranged from 14-35 (average 24) within the 7 relevés sampled.

The tree layer was sparse with occasional *Pinus edulis* and *Juniperus osteosperma*. The shrub layer was dominated by *Ericameria nauseosa* ranging in cover from 9-22% (average 17%). *Gutierrezia sarothrae* occurred in all relevés, often with low cover (1-13%, average 5%). The herbaceous layer was dominated by *Bouteloua gracilis* with absolute cover ranging from 20-30% (average 26%).

CONSERVATION RANK G?

DATABASE CODE CEG003495

**USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program**  
**Walnut Canyon National Monument**

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**MAP CLASSES**

The association Rabbitbrush / Blue Grama Shrub Herbaceous Vegetation is represented by map class Rabbitbrush / Blue Grama Shrub Herbaceous Vegetation (map code 8).

This association was mapped on Forest Service lands and at Walnut Canyon NM on the north rim in areas that were previously chained and on the south rim at lower elevations adjacent to Pinyon Pine – Utah Juniper / Blue Grama Woodland map class. The total area of Rabbitbrush / Blue Grama Shrub Herbaceous Vegetation within Walnut Canyon NM is 37 ac (15 ha) within 13 polygons and the total area in the park environs is 418 ac (169 ha) within 56 polygons.

**REFERENCES**

Francis 1986, Western Ecology Working Group of NatureServe